



United States Foreign Assistance

Foreign Assistance Reform

Office of the Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance
July 2008

Presentation Objectives

- Assess the experience of the foreign assistance reform efforts
 - challenges faced
 - adaptations required
 - major accomplishments and
 - value added
- Understand current streamlining/improvement efforts
- Discuss reform challenges for the next Administration



United States Foreign Assistance

Before Reform: *Lack of Strategic Focus & Decision-Making*

- Lack of clear goals and a way to measure progress against that goal
- Opaque, duplicative budgeting process
- Overlapping roles in Washington and the field
- Lack of accountability



United States Foreign Assistance

Core Functions of DFA

- Strategy and Policy
- Convening Authority, Coordination and Communication
- Budget Formulation and Justification
- Budget Execution and Reporting
- Bureau/Country Program Planning and Approval
- Performance Management
- Information Management



United States Foreign Assistance

Accomplishments

- More effective prioritization of resources to ensure that U.S. policy objectives are met
- Emphasis on a country-based focus for planning and programming resources
- Greater input into resource decisions
- Working with others in State and USAID, improved integration of program and operational resources



United States Foreign Assistance

Accomplishments

- Increased transparency and coordination in allocation of foreign assistance resources
- Agreement on common definitions; foreign assistance framework
- Standardized program structure
- Improved access to information—FACTS-INFO, <http://collaboration.state.gov/fbureau/>



United States Foreign Assistance

A Work in Progress: Improving, Refining and Streamlining

- Internal Assessments/After Action Reviews
- Communication, communication, communication...
- Continuing roll-out of/access to FACTS-INFO
- Linking systems and processes
- Getting the balance right
- Updating the strategic hierarchy



United States Foreign Assistance

Common Myths

- It's a State Take-Over of USAID or...USAID Take-Over of State
- “F Took My Money!”
- Overly-Centralized
- Inflexible
- Role of F: Advocate vs. Honest Broker



United States Foreign Assistance

Challenges for the Next Administration

- Strategic focus for Foreign Assistance
- Continued Foreign Assistance coordination
- Aid Effectiveness
- Strengthen relationships with Capitol Hill and the Foreign Assistance community



United States Foreign Assistance

Resources

- www.state.gov/f (public website): available to non-USG partners
- <http://inside.usaid.gov/A/F> (USAID Intranet) or <http://f.state.gov> (State Intranet): contains USG-only materials and Operational Plan and Performance Report Guidance
- <http://collaboration.state.gov/fbureau/>



United States Foreign Assistance